

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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1. The voivodship of Olsztyn (Allenstein), which consists largely of the Polish part of East Prussia, is said at present to be the most neglected of the Polish voivodships. During 1945, the Germans systematically burned magistrates' buildings and the surrounding houses in every town, and in certain cases only barracks and sections of residential suburbs were left.
2. At present, the voivodship has no more than 250,000 inhabitants. These still include about 30,000 Germans, who have asked to be returned to Germany. This year, German schools have been opened in all of the voivodships larger towns such as Olsztyn, Malbork (Marienburg), Ostroda (Osterode), Szczytno (Ortelsburg), etc. In these schools, all instruction is carried out in the German language. It is not known whether these schools were ordered set up by the Soviet authorities, or whether they are the result of an agreement between the Polish and East German Communist Parties. 25X1
3. The voivodship is said to have a substantial number of Soviet, as well as Polish, army units stationed in the towns and in the camps adjoining them. The Soviet units are located in part near the Zalew Wislany (Frisches Haff-Vistulian Sound), and in part in the northeast section of the voivodship. The Polish units in and around Orzysz (Arys) are said to consist of eight to ten regiments, including several artillery regiments.
4. The area bordering the Soviet Union is cleared to a depth of 6 to 8 kilometers. Within this area, there are several agricultural sovkhoses. There are no animals there, and the working people come there in the morning (often by car), but may not stay there overnight.
5. On the Polish side, the border patrol is sparse and consists of a few WOP (Military Border Guard) posts and patrols (usually mounted), which principally guard the abandoned farms within the border area. On the Soviet side, the border is effectively closed off by guard sections from the army. Along the border, there is a barbed-wire fence. Railroad border crossings take place at Braniewo (Braunsberg) and Zheleznodorozhny, but normally only freight traffic passes through here.

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